

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1061

By Bunch

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate George W. (Buck) Thorogood Jr., upon receiving the 2004 Robert W. Varnell Jr. Leadership Award.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate for the members of this General Assembly to pause to expressly recognize those venerable public servants who have dedicated themselves to enhancing the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Mr. George W. (Buck) Thorogood Jr. is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thorogood was recently named as the 2004 recipient of the Robert W. Varnell Jr. Leadership Award; and

WHEREAS, this prestigious award is bestowed on an outstanding community leader who displays "unfailing wit, determination, hard work, and care and concern for others" in his professional and community activities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thorogood embodies these characteristics; as CEO and vice chairman of The Bank/First Citizens Bank, Buck Thorogood has earned the respect and admiration of his peers and employees for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, deemed "a constant source of inspiration" by his business associate and nominator, Kenneth Rayborn, Buck Thorogood is also praised for "his character, his dedication, his compassion, his people and business savvy, his energy level and his ever-present sense of humor"; and

WHEREAS, these leadership skills have been a driving factor behind Mr. Thorogood's many successes; and

WHEREAS, in 1968, Buck Thorogood began his illustrious tenure in the banking industry; he is currently the CEO of the largest independent bank in Cleveland, Tennessee, and

has guided the bank's growth from \$38 million in total resources in 1980 to more than \$460 million today; and

WHEREAS, wholly dedicated to his profession, Mr. Thorogood has served the banking industry as a member of the board of directors for the Tennessee Bankers Association and its Government Relations Committee; and

WHEREAS, a remarkably successful man in his profession, Mr. Thorogood has also been a successful civic and community leader; and

WHEREAS, one of his many philanthropic efforts and volunteer activities is for the United Way; since the official inception of the United Way of Bradley County in 1971, Mr. Thorogood has been an active volunteer; and

WHEREAS, his dedication, participation, and commitment to this organization earned Mr. Thorogood the William F. Johnson Sr. Community Service Award, the highest honor bestowed to a United Way volunteer; he received a second accolade from this organization in 1995 when he was recognized with a "Special Award of Appreciation"; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the United Way, Buck Thorogood has been an active volunteer with the Broad Street United Methodist Church, Cleveland Kiwanis Club, Boys and Girls Clubs of Cleveland, Cleveland/Bradley Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Council, and Cleveland Bond Board; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thorogood's generous contributions to these organizations have taken many forms; his selfless donation of time is rivaled only by his generous financial gifts; and

WHEREAS, Buck Thorogood also makes numerous individual visits to hospitals, nursing homes, and funeral homes to personally encourage, support, or comfort his friends in the community; and

WHEREAS, Buck Thorogood's remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, friend, fellow church member, and business associate, Roger Jenne, praises the high degree of ethical and moral standards that Buck Thorogood demonstrates and sets for himself, his family, his friends, and his employees; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thorogood is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and he epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, for his many contributions to his profession and his community, Buck Thorogood is wholly deserving of the 2004 Robert W. Varnell Jr. Leadership Award, which he received during the Chamber's 78th Annual Meeting; and

WHEREAS, Buck Thorogood has demonstrated a remarkable ability to motivate others to reach their potential, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his family, his colleagues, his employees, and his community, and he should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby congratulate George W. (Buck) Thorogood upon receiving the 2004 Robert W. Varnell Jr. Leadership Award, commend him for his laudable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee, honor his myriad accomplishments, and salute his unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.